

Operative G T Purdy.

Oct. 27th, 1926.

Re: Shots, and finding of bodies Sept. 16th, 1922.
Interview with John Lathrop, brother of Mrs. Anna Hoag,
27 Elwood Ave., Bloomfield, N.J.

Operative interviewed Mr. Lathrop this evening at his place of employment, The American Book Company, Watsasing Ave. & Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, N.J.

Mr. Lathrop states that on the morning of Sept. 16th, 1922 he returned from New Brunswick at 10 A.M. and was attracted by police men in the Lane. He went over and saw Officer Garrigan and Schmeider in a car parked in the Lane. He asked the men in the car what was the matter and they told him of the bodies in the field. He then went over to where the bodies were and heard that they were Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills. He was there about two hours and the bodies were there all the time. Later two men came and picked up and read the letters and laughed at the contents and then put them in a newspaper.

Mr. Lathrop said he carefully looked the bodies over and did not see a calling card against Dr. Hall's foot. Dr. Hall's coat was open and also his vest. He did not see Dr. Hall's watch chain. Mrs. Mills hair was around her neck and her neck, face and hair were a mass of blood. He said that the letters were scattered between them. Mr. Lathrop also claims to have heard the shots and states that if when he heard the shots he went over he would have been able to see the murderers. He said he first heard three shots and then one shot.

Operative cannot understand how he could have heard the shots four or five hundred feet away, as he is very deaf and I had to shout extremely loud to make him understand me. He seems to be very anxious to testify to what he saw. He also mentioned the fact that his picture was in the Sunday newspaper as being one of the principal witnesses for the State. He seems to be a bit "off" to me. He mentioned the fact that had he known he would have figured so prominently in the case he would have looked the bodies over carefully. Operative asked him if he saw a light in the Phillips farm house and he replied that he did not.

Respectfully submitted:

G.T.P.